AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph **[0049]** as follows:

[0049] Figures 5I-5V ~~5A-5W~~ illustrate various configuration of implantable conduits.

Please amend paragraph **[0121]** as follows:

[0121] Figure 5H illustrates an example of a conduit **524** having an asymmetrical profile. The conduit **524** may have a flange **526** at either or both ends of the body **528**. Although not shown, the flange **526** may have a cone-like profile to facilitate placement within an airway. As illustrated in figure 5I ~~figure 5J~~, the asymmetrical profile of the conduit **524** assists in preventing obstruction of the airway.

Please amend paragraph **[0122]** as follows:

[0122] Figure 5J ~~Figure 5K~~ illustrate a variation of the conduit **530** having a self-cleaning mechanism. In this example, the self cleaning mechanism is a floating ball bearing **532**. The ends of the conduit **530** have a reduced diameter **534** which prevents the bearing **532** from escaping. As gas passes through the conduit **530**, the bearing **532** moves about the conduit **530** clearing it of debris. The shape of the bearing **532** and the size and shape of the reduced diameter **534** may be varied to optimize the self-cleaning effect of the device.

Please amend paragraph **[0123]** as follows:

[0123] Figure 5K and 5L~~Figure 5L and 5M~~ illustrate another variations of a self-expanding conduit **536**. In this example, as shown in figure 5K~~figure 5L~~, the conduit **536** may be constructed from a flat material **538** having a spring or springs **540**. As shown in figure 5L~~figure 5M~~, the conduit **536** is formed by rolling the assembly. The spring **540** provides an expanding force against the material **538**. The conduit **536** may also be constructed so that the flat material **538** is resilient thus eliminating the need for springs **540**.

Please amend paragraph **[0124]** as follows:

[0124] Figure 5M~~Figure 5N~~ illustrates another variation of an expandable conduit **542** constructed from a braided material. The conduit **542** may be constructed so that the diameter is dependent upon the length of the device **542**. For example, the diameter of the device **542** may decrease as the length is stretched, and the diameter may increase as the length of the device **542** is compressed. Such a construction being similar to a 'finger cuff' toy.

Please amend paragraph **[0125]** as follows:

[0125] Figures 5N-5P~~Figures 5O-5Q~~ illustrate another variation of a grommet-type conduit. Figure 5N~~Figure 5O~~ illustrates a conduit **544** having expandable ends **546**. In one variation the ends **546** of the device **544** may flare outwards as illustrated in figure 5Q ~~figure 5P~~. Figure 5N~~Figure 5O~~ illustrates another variation of the device **544** in which the ends **546** compress in length to expand in diameter.

Please amend paragraph **[0126]** as follows:

[0126] Figures 5Q and 5R~~Figures 5R and 5S~~ illustrate variations of a conduit having an anchor. In figure 5Q~~figure 5R~~, the conduit **548** has an anchor **550** at a distal end of a hollow plug **540**. The anchor **550** may be tapered to facilitate entry into the airway **100** wall or may have another design as required. The anchor **550** also contains ventilation openings ~~552~~ **552** to facilitate gas exchange through the device. Figure 5R~~Figure 5S~~ illustrates another variation of the device.

Please amend paragraph **[0127]** as follows:

[0127] Figure 5S~~Figure 5T~~ illustrates a variation of a conduit **561** having flanges **563** at either end to assist in placement of the conduit within an airway wall (not shown). The ends of the conduit **565** may be tapered to ease placement through a collateral channel. The conduit has an opening **565** to facilitate passage of air. To simplify

construction, the conduit **561** may be constructed from a biocompatible material, such as stainless steel, or plastic.

Please amend paragraph **[0128]** as follows:

[0128] Figure 5T~~Figure 5U~~ illustrates a variation of the invention having multiple openings for gas flow. The conduit **560** has a first hollow end **564** which can extend through a wall of the airway **100** and a second hollow end **566** which can remain parallel to the airway **100**. This example also includes an opening **562** which allows gas to flow through the airway **100**.

Please amend paragraph **[0129]** as follows:

[0129] Figure 5U~~Figure 5V~~ illustrates a variation of the device having a one-way valve **570**. The valve **570** allows the conduit **568** to permit exhaust of the air sac but prevents the conduit **568** from serving as another entrance of gas to the air-sac. The valve **570** may be placed at ends of the conduit or within a lumen of the conduit. The valve **570** may also be used as bacterial in-flow protection for the lungs.

Please amend paragraph **[0130]** as follows:

[0130] Figure 5V~~Figure 5W~~ illustrates another variation of a conduit **572**. In this variation, the conduit **572** may be a sponge material, or constructed of an open cell material **574**, which allows air flow through the material. Or, the conduit **572** may have lumens **576** which allow flow through the conduit **572**. To assist the conduit **572** in remaining within a channel, the conduit material may be selected such that it expands as it absorbs moisture. Also, the sponge material/open cell material may be bio-absorbable to allow for temporary placement of the conduit **572**.